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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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1. In early April 1952 an air raid drill took place at 1230 hours in the Vlone
   area. Five pursuit planes of an unidentified type coming from the sea, and
   flying at an altitude of 4,000 meters, flew over Saseno, going in the direction
   of Kanine as they disappeared behind a mountain.

2. Saseno batteries opened fire with four or five volleys of heavy caliber guns.
   More persistent fire came from a battery located in the small valley below the
   castle at Kanine, a position not visible from the sea: the guns were of light
   caliber (20 or 40 mm.).

3. Although it was rumored that the planes were Western aircraft, it appeared that
   the incident was government-planned, as all the bursts were at a height of ap-
   proximately 2,000 meters. In this connection, it is to be noted that up to
   1200 hours, only Soviet aircraft may fly over Albanian territory without having
   given prior warning; after that hour, all aircraft over Albanian territory are
   considered enemies.

4. The drill was probably for the purpose of testing battery alertness. However,
   the batteries were not very efficient as the fire opened up after the planes
   were already flying over Vlone.

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